

4 International Clinical Engineering & Health Technology Management Congress

October 24-26, 2021 - Virtual Edition

Health Technologies Assessment – The Lebanese Experience & Clinical/ Biomedical Engineering Lessons and suggestions

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HTMA

Event Website: <https://www.globalcea.org/icehtmc>



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Description

Work on establishing a national HTA Agency and Hospital Based HTA activities in Lebanon started in year 2000.

In 2020, due to the COVID-19 issues and the need to develop technologies in-house some HTA activities related to innovation were also conducted.

The local clinical/ biomedical engineers played a key role in these activities.

Goals of the project and final users that will benefit

Goals of the project was to establish a national HTA Agency in Lebanon, hospital based HTA activities, and establish criteria for innovative healthcare technologies.

Some of the lessons learned can be of benefit to clinical/ biomedical engineers in other countries.

Results

Hospital Based HTA is a good starting point towards national HTA. It must be accompanied by good HTM practices. Some concepts from the field of Technology Transfer are needed to be incorporated into the process.

COVID calls for having tools to assess new technologies before they are developed.

The convergence of IT, communications and medical devices calls for the use of extra tools in the HTA process.

Results

If we look at technology as “knowledge put into practice”; this will necessitate using the tools of “knowledge & practices” management and transfer in the assessment process.

The Health Care System can be considered as a technology. This calls for a systems approach and a set of extra tools to be used unlike the ones focusing on one single drug, device, or procedure.

Need major paradigm shifts in approaching the field of biomedical/clinical engineering and the practice of HTA.

Results

There is a lot to be done in the HTA field and as engineers we can and should play a good role in the process.

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